

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

November 19, 1997

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THIS WEEK:

PRESIDENT SIGNS FY98 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS - On Tuesday evening, November 18th, the President signed the Agriculture Appropriations for FY98.

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS ON VICE PRESIDENT'S CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE - Staff from NRCS and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will jointly present briefings for House and Senate Staff this week on the Vice President's Clean Water Initiative. On October 18th, the Vice President directed EPA and USDA to develop an action plan to tackle the nation's most serious water quality problems. The agencies have targeted mid-February for submitting a report to the Vice President. Briefing times for this week are as follows:

House Transportation and Infrastructure		
10:00 am	November 18	2253 Rayburn Building
Senate Environment and Public Works		
10:00 am	November 20	406 Dirksen Building
House Agriculture		
2:00 pm	November 20	1300 Longworth Building
Senate Agriculture		
3:15 pm	November 20	328-A Russell Building
Senate Energy and Natural Resources		
4:15 pm	November 20	TBA

In addition, Regional Field Meetings have been scheduled to present the process for public participants, solicit input, and answer questions. They are as follows:

November 20, Atlanta, Georgia

US EPA Region 4 Office
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Conference Center, Room D
time: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Contact: Art Greenberg, NRCS, USDA
telephone: 706-546-2273

November 21, Columbia, Missouri

Holiday Inn Executive Center at the junction of
Interstate 70 and Stadium Drive
time: 1 to 4:00 p.m.
Contact: Sarah Minor, NRCS, USDA
telephone: 573-876-0911

November 25, Sacramento, California

Employee Development Department Auditorium
722 Capitol Mall
time: 2:30-6:00 p.m.
Contact: Anita Brown, NRCS, USDA
telephone: 916-757-8241

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LOOKING AHEAD:

2nd SESSION OF THE 105th CONGRESS - The 2nd Session of the 105th Congress will begin on January 27, 1998. The President has been invited to present to Congress the State of the Union Address on that day. Although scheduling for the 2nd Session is very tentative at this early stage, some possible dates have been discussed.

State of the Union	January 27
Presidents Day Recess	Feb. 13-23
Spring Recess	April 3-20
Memorial Day Recess	May 22- June 1
Independence Day Recess	June 26-July 6
Summer Recess	early Aug.-Sept. 7
Target election year adjournment	Oct. 9

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARIES WILL RESUME IN JANUARY - With the conclusion of the 1st Session of the 105th, the Office of Legislative Affairs will suspend weekly distribution of this summary until Congress returns for the beginning of the 2nd Session in late January, 1998.

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